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# GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS of

The National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

The National Geographic Society is a non-profit educational and scientific Society established for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.

VOLUME XXVI

April 5, 1948

NUMBER 24

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2. British Honduras to Have Its Day in Court
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5. China's Formosa Is Raw-Material Warehouse



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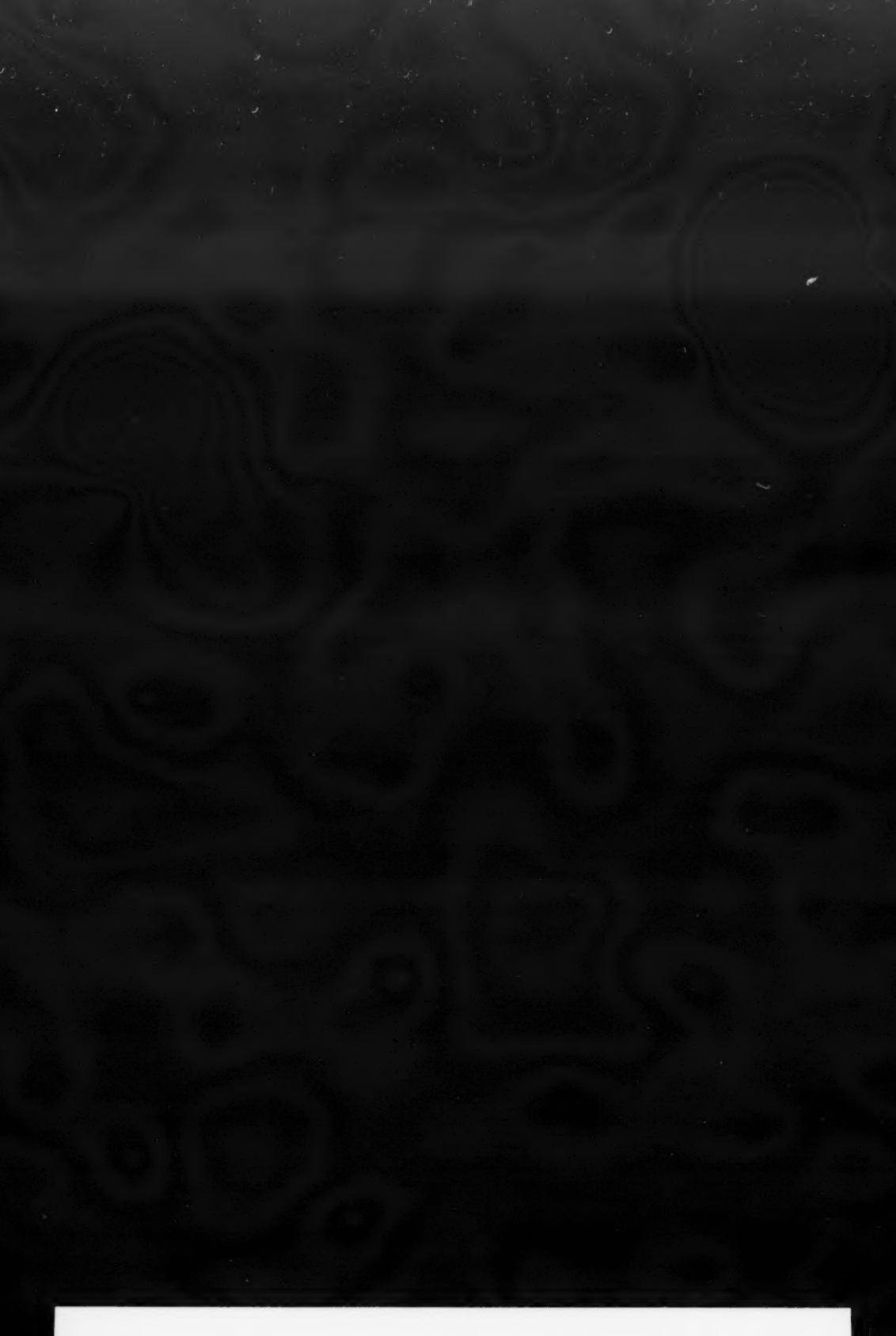
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## Finland a Baltic Wedge of Woods and Lakes

**F**INLAND, wedged between the Soviet Union and strategic Scandinavia, is a densely forested land set with a lacelike pattern of some 65,000 sprawling, island-dotted lakes. The forests provide its chief income. The lakes and rivers, canal-linked, form the principal traffic routes.

Though most of Finland's prewar population of nearly 4,000,000 people were farmers, they added to their incomes by logging during the long snowbound winters. In spring and summer the logs were floated over the more than 3,000 miles of waterways to woodworking and pulp mills.

### Hot Arctic Sun Helps Crops

A third of Finland's length lies north of the Arctic Circle. But the North Atlantic Drift Current so moderates the cold that Finland's former port, Petsamo (Pechenga to the Russians who now occupy it), is ice-free in winter while Baltic ports 700 miles south are frozen in (illustration, inside cover).

For many miles north of the Arctic Circle, the sun of the two-and-a-half-month summer is so hot that flowers bloom and children comfortably go barefoot. Carrots, beets, peas, beans, and spinach grow, and a type of wheat has been developed that will mature in the area's brief season.

Finland's chief crops are oats, barley, rye, hay, and potatoes. Most farmhouses are a gay red. They are often grouped around a courtyard. In the far north, the Lapps generally live in log cabins.

Mystery veils the Finns' past. They are neither Slavs, Mongols, nor Teutons. Presumably they came from the Volga basin, crossing the Gulf of Finland or going the long way round by land, to settle near the gulf's northern shores. Northward toward the Arctic they pushed the Lapps, whom they found living in the region.

In the 12th century, the Swedes organized a Finnish Crusade. They carried Christianity to Finland, establishing a bishopric at Turku (map, next page). Thus began Sweden's 600-year domination over Finland.

### Became Russian Grand Duchy

The Swedes taught the Finns farming methods and handicrafts. The Reformation, which brought Lutheranism to Sweden, spread that religion to Finland where it took deep root. The Reformed Church put the Finnish language into writing and inaugurated popular education in the country.

Finland became a battleground between Russia and Sweden as those two nations struggled for control of the Baltic. When Russia defeated Sweden in 1809, Finland became a grand duchy of the Russian Empire. The Russian Revolution of 1917 resulted in Finland's independence. In 1920, it became Europe's "farthest-north republic."

Capital of the country, with a population of nearly 328,000, Helsinki holds almost a tenth of Finland's people. Although chartered in 1550, the city shows few signs of age. Early buildings were perishable wooden structures. Fires and battles wiped out most of the examples of Swedish



**THE HERRING HAUL ON PENSAR IN THE TURKU ARCHIPELAGO CALLS FOR PERFECT TEAMWORK AMONG FINLAND FISHERMEN**

Fishing for herring is a year-round job in Finland's outlying Baltic islands (Bulletin No. 1). Winter fishing has a special technique. A huge net is maneuvered into place under the ice. Both men and women share in this preliminary work, which is achieved by means of guide lines drawn through holes bored in the ice. Hauling in the catch, however, is exclusively a man's job. With spikes on their heavy boots to keep them from slipping, these fishermen of Pensar Island strain backward, dragging the net from under the ice. Iron hooks attached to straps over their shoulders grip the rim of the net. An average catch may bring in more than 8,000 pounds of herring. Starting out before dawn, a "team" of 22 may make two hauls before darkness closes in to put a stop to the chilly work.

## British Honduras to Have Its Day in Court

IN THE revival of Guatemala's often-pressed claims to British Honduras, the United Nations International Court of Justice may find its first Western Hemisphere case.

The proposals made by both Great Britain and Guatemala to submit their long-standing differences for settlement spotlight an Anglicized patch of land that stands out sharply against the Spanish-culture background of Central America. Facing the Caribbean Sea, British Honduras has a land boundary with Mexico as well as with Guatemala. The Republic of Honduras lies 50 miles away, across the Gulf of Honduras.

### English Accent in Latin America

With the exception of Canada and Newfoundland, British Honduras, or Belize as it is known in Spanish, is the only British Commonwealth territory on the North American continent. After encountering the Spanish-speaking people and Latin American customs of near-by republics, the traveler comes with surprise on a New World land that features cricket, British bicycle riders, and small automobiles driven on the left side of the road.

In the capital and chief port, Belize, the residential section is made up of British town houses. Bewigged and gowned judges carry on formal British tradition in court procedures. Traffic is directed by dark-skinned natives having broad English accents and dressed in hot-weather versions of the London bobby's uniform.

Away from the settlements, nature spreads a panorama more typical of tropical mid-America. Cool forested highlands rise from the heat-plagued, isle-fringed coast along the Caribbean, with its familiar man-grove, banana, and coconut trees.

The rainy season in British Honduras lasts from May to February, feeding the colony's many streams. The name of one of these, Monkey River, hints at wild life in tropic jungles, where monkeys chatter and bright-plumaged birds flit.

### Forests Yield Mahogany and Chicle

Smaller than Vermont, British Honduras has an extremely varied population. Among its 165,000 inhabitants are a thousand or so whites, and large numbers of West Indian Negroes, mulattoes, and Creoles. There are Spanish-Indian groups, and, in the interior, the Maya Indians, linked with the ancient Mayan civilization of the region.

The story of British Honduras is interwoven with its forests, which still provide the chief export, mahogany (illustration, next page), and the more modern product, chicle, used in chewing gum.

The true mahogany (*Swietenia mahagoni*) is now scarce and expensive. Furniture makers prize the wood because it does not warp, shrink, or split. Close-grained, it polishes readily. It adheres firmly to glue, an important quality in veneering strips of mahogany over cheaper woods.

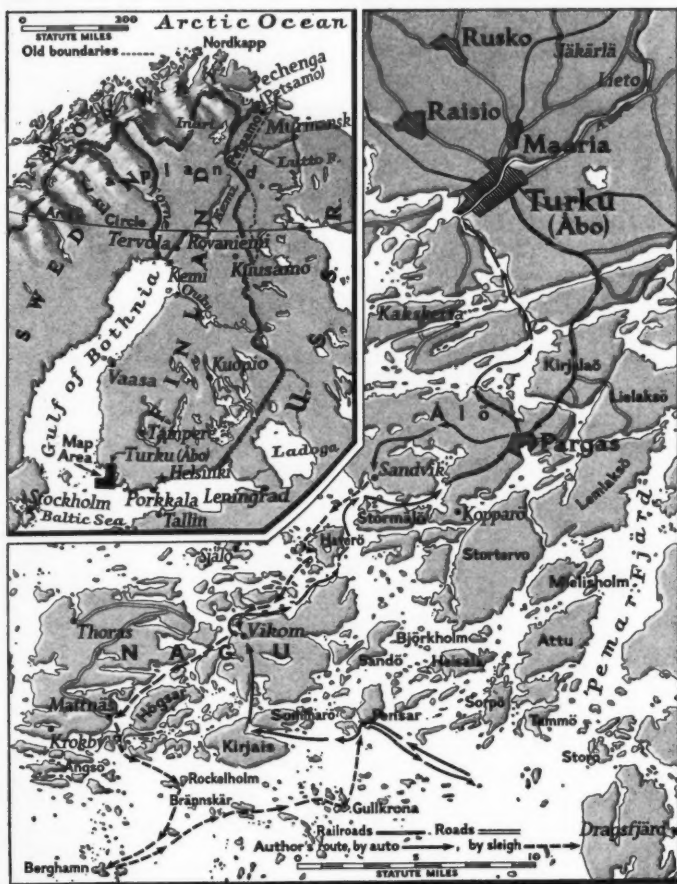
The first British settlers on this Caribbean shore are believed to have

and Russian architecture and, in rebuilding, the Finns developed a distinctive style of their own. Native granite has taken the place of wood in cities. Helsinki's railroad station is an impressive example of the new architecture, which has influenced designers in other lands.

Typical of early Finnish architecture was the *pirtti*, a one-room log cabin. It also served as a family bathhouse. Stones were heated in the fire. Water was poured on them, producing clouds of steam. On shelves near the roof, where it was hottest, perched the entire family. They beat their bodies with birch twigs until sweat streamed off and their flesh tingled. A later development was the separate bathhouse, the *sauna*.

Dozens of small islands surrounding Helsinki provide varied summer amusement for dwellers in the capital. A zoo, beaches, cottages, hotels, and an open-air museum whose exhibits depict country life in various parts of Finland occupy these wooded isles, which are easily accessible. No part of Helsinki is more than 15 minutes from woods and water.

NOTE: Finland is shown on the National Geographic Society's map of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.



See also "Scenes of Postwar Finland," in the *National Geographic Magazine*, August, 1947; "Flashes from Finland," February, 1940; and "The Farthest North Republic," October, 1938\*; and "Finland Loses Regions in North and South," in the *GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS*, October 14, 1946. (Issues marked by an asterisk are included in a special list of Magazines available to teachers in packets of ten for \$1.00.)

**AMONG THESE ISLANDS FINLAND'S FISHERMEN HAUL HERING FROM UNDER THE WINTER ICE (See inside cover)**

DRAWN BY THEODORA PRICE

## Circus Billposters Make Spring "Official"

**K**NIGHTS of the bucket and brush for America's score of traveling circuses have taken to the road for a new season. The first of their gaudy bills of wild animals, acrobats, sword swallowers, and clowns are already posted on brick walls, barns, and fences. Spring is officially here!

Some of the chances the billposters take on lashlines and lofty ladders are as hazardous as the work the aerialists do under the big top, comments Beverly Kelley in the March issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*. But gone is one hazard—the poster fight of the days before John Ringling bought out all his major competitors.

In those days, observes Mr. Kelley, a veteran circus press agent, each season had its series of ferocious fights among the rival billposters. When two crews hit the same town, they would mix paste and mayhem.

### "Made in America"

Hickory-handled brushes were the weapons. The object was to pummel arms and shoulders until one crew or the other would become hors de billposting. A favorite sabotage was to sneak yeast or soap into the paste barrels of the enemy so that his sheets would peel loose soon after the paste had dried.

Here today and gone tomorrow, the circus as we know it is an achievement of restless America. There were circuses long before the Circus Maximus of Julius Caesar. And circuses in other lands today have excellent talent. But they lack the frantic schedule of a new town nearly every day, and the drive that moves a four-train, 100-car show over the map from early April through November.

A circus can cover about 150 towns a tour. Communities not getting one of the big railroad shows usually may see one or more "mud" shows, so dubbed in the trade because they travel highways by motor-truck caravan instead of by rail.

Circus people as well as animals come from all over the world. In the "Greatest Show on Earth" of 1947, more than forty of the acts made their first American appearance. Mixed nationalities, creeds, and colors got along well together. Lasting friendships were made.

### Gargantua Apes Ancestors

Among circus animals, zoologists rank the chimpanzee first in intelligence, the orangutan second, the elephant third. They reserve judgment on the gorilla, whose fierceness increases with age and limits chances of appraising his mentality.

Savage Gargantua's every act is news. Eating eight meals a day, he rolls up at night in a cheap cotton blanket which he rips to shreds the next morning. These actions are credited to his ancestors of the African jungle who made nightly nests among vine-draped trees and never slept twice in the same place.

Elephants, rarely born in captivity, come from Asia or Africa. They are usually strangers to peanuts until they reach America's shores. They

been shipwrecked sailors, or pirates, who turned to lumber for their fortunes. Joined later by colonists from Jamaica and other adventurers, the settlers continued to concentrate on forestry, while the Spaniards around them sought the more glittering wealth of gold and silver.

For centuries Great Britain and Spain quarreled, and at times came to open warfare over this region. After the Latin American peoples won their independence from Spain, the dispute over British Honduras entered a new phase.

In 1859, Guatemala and Great Britain signed a boundary-setting treaty. This treaty was later denounced by Guatemala, on the ground that Britain had failed to fulfill one of its provisions, which called for building a road from the Caribbean to the Guatemala capital.

NOTE: British Honduras is shown on the Society's map of Countries of the Caribbean.

For additional information, see "Old British Honduras Boundary Agreement Again Questioned," in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, October 29, 1945.



E. O. HOPPE

#### TWO POWERFUL "CATS" PULL GIGANTIC MAHOGANY LOGS ACROSS A RIVER IN BRITISH HONDURAS

The activities of the logging camp have cleared a small space in the tangled jungle and permitted the tropical sun to shine down on leaf-roofed shacks. The best mahogany comes from trees growing in Central America, Mexico, and Venezuela. The first log behind the caterpillar tractors is of maximum size—about six feet in diameter. It was probably 60 to 100 feet high. Light red when felled, the wood darkens with exposure.

## Mihai's Visit Recalls Many Jobless Kings

THE visit of former King Mihai (Michael) of Romania to the United States calls attention to how two wars and their political aftermaths have thinned the ranks of Europe's reigning monarchs.

Before World War I, Europe had 21 countries headed by hereditary rulers. By the time World War II neared, the number had shrunk to 16.

Today there are only ten, including the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the tiny principalities of Liechtenstein and Monaco.

The following table illustrates the rise of unemployment in the "king business."

1914	1939	1948
1. Albania	Albania	—
2. Austria-Hungary	Hungary	—
3. Belgium	Belgium	Belgium
4. Bulgaria	Bulgaria	—
5. Denmark	Denmark	Denmark
6. German Empire	—	—
7. Great Britain	Great Britain	Great Britain
8. Greece	Greece	Greece
9. Italy	Italy	—
10. Liechtenstein	Liechtenstein	Liechtenstein
11. Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Luxembourg
12. Monaco	Monaco	Monaco
13. Montenegro	—	—
14. Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands
15. Norway	Norway	Norway
16. Romania	Romania	—
17. Russia	—	—
18. Servia	Yugoslavia	—
19. Spain	—	—
20. Sweden	Sweden	Sweden
21. Turkey	—	—

Young Mihai is the latest addition to the roster of kings without kingdoms.

Albania stands first in the World War II bracket of royal casualties. King Zog was forced to flee his little kingdom in April, 1939, after its invasion by Fascist Italy. He never returned, for Albania was proclaimed a "people's republic" not many months after V-E Day.

Youthful King Peter II of Yugoslavia left his country at the time of the German invasion in 1941 and likewise was unable to resume his throne. Once the war ended, he was declared deposed by Marshal Tito's regime which voted in November, 1945, to replace the monarchy with a "people's republic."

Bulgaria's boy king, Simeon II, who had reigned through a regency after the death of his father, King Boris III, lost his throne in 1946, with the creation of another "people's republic." Simeon and his mother,

swallow water not through their trunks but by sucking it part way through, then squirting it into their mouths. Insects drive them nearly crazy in hot weather, despite the fact that shaving their hides with a blowtorch merely tickles them.

The Big Show, among many other things, means goods—76,000 yards of canvas in 1947. More than 1,000 costumes for people and for animals, with styles changing annually, present a special problem.

NOTE: For further information about circuses, see "The Wonder City That Moves by Night" and "Circus Action in Color" (32 color photographs), in the March, 1948, issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*; and "Land of Sawdust and Spangles," October, 1931.



AL MOSSE—CHICAGO SUN

THE CIRCUS WORLD OF MAKE-BELIEVE IS ALL TOO REAL AND TERRIFYING FOR THIS CHICAGO BOY

### New Swiss Canton Proposed in Jura Mountains

A movement to cut a French-language canton from Switzerland's big German-speaking Bern Canton would set up a new Swiss subdivision in the Jura Mountains. Covered with dark forests of firs and pines, the Jura ranges rise in somber majesty along the French-Swiss border. Nestled in valleys, amid patches of vineyards, orchards, and pastures, are French-style villages of medieval, sharp-roofed houses and slim-spired churches. Watchmaking, woodcarving, and cheese production are specialties.

From Delémont (German: Delsberg), center of the French-canton movement, a mountainous band of French-speaking Swiss territory sweeps southward to the Italian frontier. Spoken in five of Switzerland's 25 cantons, French ranks second among the country's four official languages. German comes first in all the rest of the cantons except two, where Italian and the Roman dialect, Romansh, are used.

## China's Formosa Is Raw-Material Storehouse

**C**HINA'S new-old island of Formosa, toward which American business firms are looking for new fields of development, is a storehouse of commodities high on world-trade lists.

Though output has been reduced through war damage and postwar unrest, Formosa normally produces large quantities of sugar, tea, rice, and pineapples. It mines coal, copper, gold, and silver, and contains still-undetermined deposits of today's even more precious mineral, petroleum.

### Was Japanese Colony for 50 Years

From the island's extensive camphor forests (illustration, next page), long has come the bulk of the world's natural camphor for use in medicines, insecticides, lacquers, and celluloid.

Formosa was a Japanese colony for nearly 50 years before the attack on Pearl Harbor. A little larger than Massachusetts and Connecticut together, it had come into Japan's possession by forced cession from China. It was returned to the Chinese after Japan's defeat in 1945.

The island has a strategic position for either peacetime trade or war use. This green and mountainous land which early Portuguese sailors named "Ilha Formosa"—Beautiful Island—lies about 90 miles off the bulging coast of China. It is an old station on the traffic lanes between Japan, the Philippines, and the Netherlands Indies.

Formosa has been called an anchored airplane carrier, though its towering, cloud-framed peaks belie the "flat-top" comparison. Japanese bombers roared out from this base for the first attacks on the Philippines in World War II.

Japanese forces were trained there in jungle and mountain warfare. The island was an arsenal of supply, with shipyards, oil refineries, and transshipment depots filled with captured rubber, quinine, fibers, and oil.

### Farmers and Headhunters

In spite of Japan's long rule and trade control, Japanese settlers have numbered only several hundred thousand in a population now more than 6,000,000. Nearly all the people are Chinese, the descendants of mainlanders who began crossing over back in the 1600's.

Most of the Formosans live in the fertile, farm-dotted lowlands of the west, where small plots, worked by farmers in blue pants and straw hats, resemble those of southern China.

In the forest-covered mountain fastnesses of the east are concentrated the island's primitive aboriginal tribesmen (illustration, cover). Notorious as headhunters, these people were confined by the Japanese behind barbed-wire fences and guard posts. The wilder tribesmen were known as "raw savages." Those who had emerged into more civilized life were called "ripe savages."

The three main Chinese groups—Cantonese, Hok-lo, and Hakka—have arranged themselves on the island in a pattern similar to that of the mainland from which they emigrated.

Queen Ioanna, went into exile in Egypt with her father, former King Vittorio Emmanuele III of Italy.

Vittorio Emmanuele, little more than a royal symbol under Mussolini, abdicated in 1946 and died in Alexandria, Egypt, last December. His son became King Umberto II of Italy in 1946, but he reigned only 36 days. By referendum the voters chose a republic and Umberto departed for Portugal as another royal exile.

In 1946 Hungary proclaimed itself a republic. Before the war it had been a kingdom with a vacant throne, under the rule of a regent.

Spain has been without a king since 1931 when King Alfonso XIII was forced out. He died in Rome in 1941, shortly after renouncing his rights to the throne in favor of his son, Don Juan.

Romania has the distinction of having lost two kings in less than eight years. In 1941, Carol II abdicated and left the country under pressure of the Fascist Iron Guard. His son Mihai succeeded him, but last December the 26-year-old king was forced to abdicate under alleged political pressure. Mihai's departure cleared the way for the proclamation of another "people's republic" conforming with the postwar Balkan pattern.



NORWEGIAN OFFICIAL

**KING HAAKON VII IS WELCOMED HOME BY JUBILANT NORWEGIANS AFTER HIS WARTIME EXILE**

Behind him, in British battle dress, Crown Prince Olav salutes while Crown Princess Martha and their children look on. Wars have seemed to strengthen the ties between the Scandinavian countries and their constitutional monarchs—unlike other parts of Europe where 11 kings have lost their jobs since 1914.

The 100,000 Cantonese are mostly city-dwelling merchants. The Hok-lo, 4,000,000 strong, came from conservative Fukien Province farms. They continued farming, with the men clinging to the traditional pigtail and the women binding their feet until recent years. The 1,000,000 Hakkas migrated from the backwoods of Kwantung Province where they were China's "frontiersmen" and rugged individualists whose women had never bound their feet. On Formosa, they live in hill areas near the savage territory.

So far, there have been few non-Asiatics on Formosa. The prewar capital, Taihoku, held about 50 such foreigners, chiefly British and American consuls, and businessmen engaged in the camphor and tea trade.

NOTE: Formosa is shown on the Society's map of China. It also appears, in a large-scale inset, on the map of Japan and Korea.

For additional information, see "I Lived on Formosa," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for January, 1945\*; and "Japan and the Pacific," April, 1944.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, "Formosa, Rugged Island of Tea and Camphor," April 14, 1947; and "Formosa, Japan's Has-Been Pantry and Arsenal," November 6, 1944.



**FORMOSAN WOODCUTTERS FIRST FELL THE CAMPHOR TREE, THEN CHIP AWAY AT IT**

Their tools leave teethlike marks. They collect the chips and boil them into a gum. This they bring for refining to the camphor monopoly in Taihoku. Formosa maintains its supremacy in producing natural camphor by replanting cut-over areas. Synthetic camphor is now used more and more in such products as camphorated oil and celluloid.

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